

I. AMENDMENT

In the Specification:

Please amend the Abstract, which begins on page 53, line 5, as follows:

[[A]]Disclosed is a method for detecting neovascularized tissue that includes placing a tissue in the path of a light beam, measuring a polarization shift of the light beam, and detecting neovascularized tissue if the measured polarization shift corresponds to a polarization shift of a neovascularized tissue. [[An]]Also disclosed is an apparatus for detecting neovascularized tissue that includes a laser, a polarizer coupled to the laser, a tissue sample holder coupled to the polarizer, an analyzer coupled to the tissue sample holder, a detector coupled to the analyzer, and a data acquisition system coupled to the detector, wherein the data acquisition system is configured to measure a polarization shift of a light beam emitted by the laser and diagnose an ocular disease if the measured polarization shift corresponds to a polarization shift of a neovascularized tissue.